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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

# **WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA**

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE--SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE,

and

NEVADA DEPARTMENT of CONSERVATION and NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION of WATER RESOURCES

Data included in this report were obtained by the agencies named above in cooperation with Federal, State and private organizations listed on the last page of this report.

AS OF  
**JAN. 1, 1970**

## TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1400 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. In the near future, it is anticipated that automatic snow water equivalent sensing devices along with radio telemetry will provide a continuous record of snow water equivalent at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

## PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, Western Regional Technical Service Center, Room 209, 701 N. W. Glisan, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	P. O. Box "F", Palmer, Alaska 99645
Arizona	6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	12417 Federal Building, Denver, Colorado 80202
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P. O. Box 98, Bazeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1218 S. W. Washington St., Portland, Oregon 97205
Utah	4012 Federal Building, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 340, Casper, Wyoming 82601

## PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES.

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia



# ***WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR NEVADA***

and  
FEDERAL - STATE - PRIVATE COOPERATIVE SNOW SURVEYS

*Issued by*

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# INDEX TO NEVADA SNOW COURSES ( By Basins )

Refer to the map on the following page for Snow Course locations.

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
SNAKE RIVER BASIN					
SNAKE RIVER					
15H1MA	BEAR CREEK	31	46N	58E	7800
15H2	FOX CREEK	33	46N	58E	6800
15H13A	GOAT CREEK	31	46N	60E	8800
15H15A	HUMMINGBIRD SPRINGS	6	45N	60E	8945
14H1	JACKS CREEK	6	42N	62E	7000
15H20a	MORRITT MOUNTAIN	19	46N	54E	7040
15H14A	POLLE CREEK RANGER STATION	13	46N	59E	8330
15H18a	RED POINT	15	47N	61E	7940
15H3A	76 CREEK	6	44N	58E	7100
15H19a	STAG MTN.	29	41N	58E	7800
OWYHEE RIVER					
15H4MP	BIG BEND	30	45N	56E	6700
16H6a	COLUMBIA BASIN	31	44N	53E	6650
16H8a	FAWN CREEK	2	45N	52E	7000
15H5	GOLD CREEK	32	15N	56E	6600
16H1M	JACK CREEK, LOWER	18	42N	53E	6800
16H2A	JACK CREEK, UPPER	9	42N	53E	7250
16H4	JACKS PEAK	28	42N	53E	8420
16H5	LAUREL DRAW	20	45N	53E	6700
17G4a	LOUSE CANYON (OREG.)	27	40S	44E	6440
15H9MP	TAYLOR CANYON	35	39N	53E	6200

## INTERIOR

UPPER HUMBOLOT RIVER					
15J17a	AMERICAN BEAUTY	32	31N	58E	7800
15J12A	CORRAL CANYON	27	28N	57E	8500
15J1MP	ORSEY BASIN	28	35N	60E	8100
15J3	ORY CREEK	5	34N	60E	6500
15H7	FRY CANYON	31	43N	54E	6700
15J9MP	GREEN MOUNTAIN	23	28N	57E	8000
15J10	HARRISON PASS #1	9	28N	57E	6800
15J11	HARRISON PASS #2	16	28N	57E	7400
15J4	LAMOILLE #1	15	32N	58E	7100
15J5	LAMOILLE #2	14	32N	58E	7200
15J6M	LAMOILLE #3	24	32N	58E	7700
15J7	LAMOILLE #4	19	32N	59E	8000
15J8P	LAMOILLE #5	31	32N	59E	8700
15J18a	POLLE CANYON	31	31E	9140	
15J16a	ROBINSON LAKE	23	33N	59E	9200
15H6MP	ROODE FLAT	36	43N	53E	6800
15J2	RYAN RANCH	1	34N	59E	5800
15H8	TREMEWAN RANCH	9	39N	55E	5700
15H10P	TROUT CREEK, LOWER	28	37N	61E	6900
15H11A	TROUT CREEK, UPPER	4	36N	61E	8500

LOWER HUMBOLOT RIVER					
17K1	BIG CREEK CAMP GROUND	10	17N	43E	6600
17K2	BIG CREEK MINE	23	17N	43E	7600
17K3	BIG CREEK, UPPER	26	17N	43E	7800
17H2	BUCKSKIN, LOWER	25	45N	39E	6700
17H1	BUCKSKIN, UPPER	11	45N	39E	8200
17L1	CORRAL, LOWER	12	11N	40E	7500
17L2	CORRAL, UPPER	20	11N	41E	8000
17J2	GOLCONDA #2	22	35N	39E	6000
17H4	GRANITE PEAK	22	44N	39E	7800
17H5	LAMANCE CREEK	13	42N	38E	6000
17H3	MARTIN CREEK	18	44N	40E	6700
16H3AP	MIDAS	18	39N	46E	7200
16H7	TOE JAM a	29	40N	50E	7700

EASTERN NEVAOA					
14L1	BAKER #1	29	13N	69E	7950
14L2	BAKER #2	30	13N	69E	8950
14L3	BAKER #3	25	13N	68E	9250
14K2	BERRY CREEK	26	17N	65E	9100
14K1	BIRD CREEK	34	19N	65E	7500
15J13	CAVE CREEK	25	27N	57E	7500
15J14	HAGER CANYON	34	27N	57E	8000
15J15	HOLE-IN-MTN	6	35N	61E	7900
14K8	KALAMAZOO CREEK	34	20N	65E	7400
14K3	MURRAY SUMMIT	25	16N	62E	7250
15K1	ROBINSON SUMMIT	34	18N	61E	7600
14K7	SILVER CREEK #2	30	16N	69E	8000
14K5	WARD MOUNTAIN #2	25	15N	62E	8900

CENTRAL GREAT BASIN					
18M2	CAMPITO MTN (CAL.)	19	55	35E	10200
18M5a	CHIATOVICH FLAT	32	25	34E	10500
15N2	CLARK CANYON	8	19S	56E	9000
18M1	MONTGOMERY PASS	4	1N	33E	7100
18M3a	PINCHOT CREEK	28	1N	33E	9300
18M4a	PIUTE PASS (CAL.)	45	33S	43E	11700
15N1	TROUGH SPRINGS	23	18S	55E	8500

NORTHERN GREAT BASIN					
19H1	BALO MOUNTAIN	17	45N	21E	6720
20H5	BARBER CREEK (CAL.)	23	39N	16E	6500
20H6	CEAR PASS (CAL.)	12	43N	14E	7100
18G6a	ONIO CREEK (OREG.)	14	41S	34E	6000
18H1	OISASTER PEAK	8	47N	34E	6500
20H3a	OISMAL SWAMP (CAL.)	31	48N	22E	7000
20H7	EAGLE PEAK (CAL.)	35	40N	15E	7200
19H3	49-MTN	7	42N	19E	6000
19H2	HAYS CANYON	1	39N	18E	6400
19H4a	LITTLE BALLY MTN	8	45N	19E	6000
17G5a	OREGON CANYON (OREG.)	9	40S	40E	7240
17H6a	QUINN RIDGE	9	47N	41E	6300
20H4	RESERVATION CREEK (CAL.)	12	46N	15E	5900
18G5a	TROUT CREEK (OREG.)	10	41S	38E	7800

NUMBER	NAME	SEC.	TWP.	RGE.	ELEV.
LAKE TAHOE					
19L14	OAGGETTS PASS	19	13N	19E	7350
20L5	ECHO SUMMIT (CAL.)	6	11N	18E	7450
19L2	FREEL BENCH (CAL.)	36	12N	18E	7300
19K6	GLENBROOK #2	13	14N	18E	6900
19L3M5Z	HAGANS MEADOW (CAL.)	36	12N	18E	8000
20L4	LAKE LUCILLE (CAL.)	28	12N	17E	8200
19K4M5TZ	MARLETTE (CAL.)	18	15N	19E	8000
20L3	RICHARDSONS #2 (CAL.)	6	12N	18E	6500
20L1	RUBICON #1 (CAL.)	6	13N	17E	8100
20L2	RUBICON #2 (CAL.)	6	13N	17E	7500
20K16	TAHOE CITY (CAL.)	6	15N	17E	6250
19L1	UPPER TRUCKEE (CAL.)	21	12N	18E	6400
20K17M	WARD CREEK (CAL.)	21	15N	16E	7000
20K255TZ	WARD CREEK #2 (CAL.)	21	15N	16E	6750

TRUCKEE RIVER					
20K14	80CA #2 (CAL.)	28	18N	17E	5900
20K22	BROCKWAY SUMMIT (CAL.)	3	17N	16E	7100
20K21	DOONER PARK #2 (CAL.)	18	17N	16E	6000
20K10*	DOONER SUMMIT (CAL.)	25	17N	14E	6900
20K7*	FORDYCE LAKE (CAL.)	34	18N	13E	8500
20K8	FURNACE FLAT (CAL.)	10	17N	13E	6700
20K4MP	INDEPENDENCE CAMP (CAL.)	34	19N	15E	7000
20K3	INDEPENDENCE CREEK (CAL.)	14	19N	15E	6500
20K5	INDEPENDENCE LAKE (CAL.)	9	18N	15E	8450
19K3	LITTLE VALLEY	17	16N	19E	6300
19K2	MT. ROSE	7	17N	19E	9000
20K6	SAGE HEN CREEK (CAL.)	7	18N	16E	6500
20K19	SOUAW VALLEY #2 (CAL.)	6	15N	16E	7500
20K13M	TRUCKEE #2 (CAL.)	22	17N	16E	6400
20K2	WEBBER LAKE (CAL.)	29	19N	14E	7000
20K1*	WEBBER PEAK (CAL.)	30	19N	14E	8000

CARSON RIVER					
19L5	BLUE LAKES (CAL.)	30	9N	19E	8000
19L4	CARSON PASS, UPPER (CAL.)	22	10N	18E	8600
19K5	CLEAR CREEK	6	14N	19E	7300
19L19a	EBBETTS PASS (CAL.)	17	8N	20E	8700
19L16a	FISH VALLEY, UPPER (CAL.)	18	7N	22E	8050
19L18a	WET MEADOWS LAKE (CAL.)	26	9N	19E	8100
19L20a	WOLF CREEK (CAL.)	35	8N	20E	8000

WALKER RIVER					
19L11	BUCKEYE FORKS (CAL.)	20	4N	23E	8500
19L10	BUCKEYE ROUGHS (CAL.)	15	4N	23E	7900
19L1-2A	CENTER MOUNTAIN (CAL.)	4	3N	23E	9400
18L1	LAPON MEADOW	36	8N	28E	9000
19L8	LEAVITT MEADOWS (CAL.)	4	5N	22E	7200
19L17a	LOBDELL LAKE (CAL.)	20	7N	24E	9200
18L2	MT. GRANT	23	8N	28E	9000
19L7M	SONORA PASS (CAL.)	1	5N	21E	8800
19L235TZ	SONORA PASS BRIDGE	6	5N	22E	8800
19M1*	TIOGA PASS (CAL.)	30	1N	25E	9900
19L13M	VIRGINIA LAKES (CAL.)	5	2N	25E	9500
19L9	WILLOW FLAT (CAL.)	21	5N	23E	8250
19L22aZ	VIRGINIA LAKES RIDGE	32	3N	25E	9200

## COLORADO

LOWER COLORADO RIVER					
15N5	KYLE CANYON	27	19S	56E	8200
15N4	LEE CANYON #1	10	19S	56E	8400
15N3	LEE CANYON #2	9	19S	56E	9200
15N8	LEE CANYON #3	10	19S	56E	8500
14M1	MATHEW CANYON	10	6S	70E	6000
14M2	PINE CANYON	23	6S	69E	6200
15N7	RAINBOW CANYON #2	6	20S	57E	8100
15L1	WHITE RIVER #1	31	13N	59E	7400

## LEGEND NUMBERING SYSTEM (EXAMPLE)

19K4	SNOW COURSE ONLY
19K45	SNOW COURSE AND SNOW PILLOW
19K4M	SNOW COURSE AND SOIL MOISTURE
19K4A	SNOW COURSE AND AERIAL MARKER
19K4P	SNOW COURSE AND STORAGE PRECIPITATION GAGE
19K4MA	SNOW COURSE, SOIL MOISTURE AND AERIAL MARKER
19K4MP	SNOW COURSE, SOIL MOISTURE AND PRECIPITATION GAGE
19K45TZ	SNOW COURSE, SNOW PILLOW AND TEMPERATURE RADIO TELEMETERED.

LOWER CASE LETTERS m, a, p, s, i, z, INDICATE NO SNOW COURSE, ONLY A SOIL MOISTURE STATION, AERIAL MARKER, STORAGE PRECIPITATION GAGE, SNOW PILLOW, TEMPERATURE, OR RADIO TELEMETERED.

\*LOCATED ON ADJACENT WATERSHED





NEVADA'S 1970 WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK IS FOR NEAR-AVERAGE SUPPLIES FOR THE IRRIGATION SEASON. JANUARY 1 SNOW SURVEYS INDICATE THAT THE HUMBOLDT AND OWYHEE RIVER DRAINAGES HAVE A SNOWPACK 20 PERCENT BETTER THAN AVERAGE, WHILE THE TRUCKEE, CARSON, AND WALKER RIVER DRAINAGES ARE CURRENTLY ABOUT 20 PERCENT BELOW THE NORMAL. WATER HELD IN STORAGE IN RESERVOIRS THROUGHOUT THE STATE IS MUCH ABOVE AVERAGE AND WILL BE AN EXCELLENT SUPPLEMENT TO THE NATURAL STREAMFLOW THIS YEAR. MOUNTAIN SOILS ARE DRIER THAN AVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE STATE AT THIS TIME.

January 1 snow surveys are limited in number, but they indicate that the Humboldt River drainage has a snowpack 120 percent of normal for this date. The Owyhee River drainage, similarly, has above-normal snow conditions. Surveys in the Tahoe-Truckee River drainage show the snow cover is about 80 percent of the amount expected for this date. The Carson and Walker River drainages also have a snow cover 20 percent below normal at this time.

Only two major storm systems have deposited snow on the mountain watersheds this season. Weather patterns since mid-summer have been much drier than normal. December was the only month in the last six to produce average or above-average amounts of precipitation. High-elevation mountain soils are much drier than normal for this date. Valley and low-elevation soils contain good moisture due to the December rains.

Reservoir storage is well above average throughout the state. Last season's abundant streamflow left reservoirs with more carryover storage for this date than any year since 1966. Currently, major irrigation reservoirs have 160 percent of the normal amount of water held in storage.

Considering this year's snowpack, as it is just beginning to build, along with the much-above-average reservoir storage, water users can expect to have a near-average supply for the 1970 season. In order to maintain this "near-average" water picture next spring, Nevada watersheds will need to receive average amounts of snowfall from now until early April 1970.



# RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet) as of January 1, 1970

Basin or Stream	RESERVOIR	Usable Capacity	Usable Storage		
			This Year	Last Year	Average†
Owyhee	Wild Horse	72	7	0	13
Lower Humboldt	Rye Patch	179	155	20	64
Colorado	Mohave	1,810	1,519	1,515	1,618
Colorado	Mead	27,217	16,760	15,355	16,895
Tahoe	Tahoe	732	553	503	376
Truckee	Boca	41	22	2	10
Truckee	Stampede	220	20	Storage began 8/1/69	
Truckee	Prosser **	30	9	10	10 *
Carson	Lahontan	286	234	134	149
West Walker	Topaz	59	48	18	26
East Walker	Bridgeport	42	43	17	22
** Flood control use allocation of 20,000 acre-feet between November 1 and April 10.					

## TOTAL RESERVOIR STORAGE (Thousand Acre Feet)

MONTH	This Year	Last Year	Average †
October 1	999	649	656
January 1	1,062	694	660
February 1		881	715
March 1		922	768
April 1		796	839
May 1		902	890

† 1953-1967 period.

The above data developed from Wild Horse, Rye Patch, Tahoe, Boca, Lahontan, Topaz, and Bridgeport Reservoirs in 1,000 Acre-Feet.

TOTAL USABLE CAPACITY 1,411





# SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS

DRAINAGE BASIN and/or SNOW COURSE	THIS YEAR			PAST RECORD	
	Date of Survey	Snow Depth (Inches)	Water Content (Inches)	Water Content (inches)	
				Last Year	Average †
NAME					
<u>SNAKE RIVER</u>					
Bear Creek	NS	-	-	8.8a	6.6 *
Goat Creek	NS	-	-	7.5a	6.8 *
Hummingbird Springs	NS	-	-	8.8a	7.0 *
Pole Creek Ranger Station	12/29	40	9.8	7.8	6.5 *
Red Point	NS	-	-	4.5a	2.8 *
<u>OWYHEE RIVER</u>					
Big Bend	12/29	20	3.6	5.5	2.6 *
Gold Creek	12/29	10	1.5	4.0	1.6 *
Taylor Canyon	12/31	15	2.3	3.4	1.6 *
<u>HUMBOLDT RIVER</u>					
Fry Canyon	12/30	17	3.1	6.4	2.3 *
Rodeo Flat	12/30	14	2.5	5.7	2.4 *
Tremewan Ranch	12/31	6	1.0	2.8	0.4 *
<u>LAKE TAHOE-TRUCKEE RIVER</u>					
Donner Summit	12/29	25	8.5	21.3	-
Echo Summit	12/29	46	12.0	18.9	-
Freel Bench	12/31	13	3.9	8.8	-
Glenbrook #2	1/1/70	13	2.9	6.6	-
Hagans Meadow	12/31	26	6.5	10.8	-
Heavenly Valley	12/29	36	10.1	-	-
Independence Camp	12/26	13	2.9	12.6	-
Marlette Lake	12/29	30	8.0	13.5	-
Mount Rose Ski Area	12/31	53	17.0	-	-
Richardsons #2	1/1/70	13	2.9	9.6	-
Tahoe City	Course destroyed			8.7	-
Upper Truckee	12/31	7	1.8	6.9	-
Ward Creek #2	12/30	33	12.6	-	-
Ward Creek #3	12/30	28	10.3	19.8	-
<u>CARSON-WALKER RIVERS</u>					
Sonora Pass	12/30	24	5.3	11.4	-
Virginia Lakes	12/29	14	3.6	8.2	-
NS Not scheduled this year in order to meet budget limitations.					
NOTE: All averages based on 1953-67, 15 year period. Forecast period is April 1 through July 31 unless otherwise noted. a-Aerial marker; water content estimated. * 1953-67 adjusted average.					

† 1953-1967 period.





**PEAK FLOWS** (MAXIMUM MEAN DAILY) (Av. flow for 24 hrs. on day of greatest flow)

FORECAST POINT	PEAK FLOW (SECOND FEET)	
	Forecast Range	Average †
Peak-flow forecast not issued until March 1, 1970.		

**FORECAST DATE of LOW FLOW VALUES**

FORECAST POINT	Low Flow Value Second/Ft.	Forecast Date Stream Will Recede to Low Flow Value	Average Date of Low Flow Value
Low-flow forecasts not issued until March 1, 1970.			

**SOIL MOISTURE MEASUREMENTS**

STATION	Profile (Inches)		Soil Moisture (Inches)		
	Depth	Capacity	Date	This Year	Average †
<u>OWYHEE-HUMBOLDT</u>					
Big Bend	48	16.7	12/29/69	11.7	15.4 *
Rodeo Flat	42	11.0	12/30/69	4.3	10.3 *
Taylor Canyon	48	15.1	12/30/69	9.2	13.2 *
<u>TAHOE-TRUCKEE</u>					
Independence Camp	34	6.1	12/26/69	2.6	5.3 *
Marlette Lake	50	3.7	12/29/69	2.4	1.9 *
Ward Creek	49	5.8	12/30/69	3.9	4.3 *

† 1953-1967 period.



## Agencies Cooperating in Collecting Data Contained in this Bulletin

### FEDERAL

- Agricultural Research Service
- Army
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Forest Service
- Geological Survey
- Navy
- Soil Conservation Service
- U. S. District Court - Federal Water Master
- Weather Bureau

### STATE

- California Cooperative Snow Surveys
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Water Resources
- Colorado River Commission of Nevada
- Idaho Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Nevada Association of Soil Conservation Districts
- Nevada Cooperative Snow Surveys
- Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
  - Division of Water Resources
  - Nevada State Forester-Firewarden
- Oregon Cooperative Snow Surveys
- University of Nevada
- Utah Cooperative Snow Surveys
- White Mountain Research Station, Univ. of California

### PRIVATE

- Amalgamated Sugar Company
- Kennecott Copper Corporation
- Nevada Irrigation District
- Owyhee Project North Board of Control
- Owyhee Project South Board of Control
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Pershing County Water Conservation District
- Sierra Pacific Power Company
- Squaw Valley Development Company
- Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
- Walker River Irrigation District
- Washoe County Water Conservation District

Other organizations and individuals furnish valuable information for the snow survey reports. Their Cooperation is gratefully acknowledged.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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necessary for forecasting  
water supply for irrigation,  
domestic and municipal water  
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generation , navigation ,  
mining and industry

*"The Conservation of Water begins  
with the Snow Survey"*